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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **KONINKLIJKE PHILIPS ELECTRONICS N.V.** [NL/NL]; Groenewoudseweg 1, NL-5621 BA Eindhoven (NL).

(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): **RODDEMAN, Gerardus, J., H.** [NL/NL]; c/o Prof. Holstlaan 6, NL-5656 AA Eindhoven (NL).

(74) Agents: **SCHOUTEN, Marcus, M.** et al.; Prof. Holstlaan 6, NL-5656 AA Eindhoven (NL).

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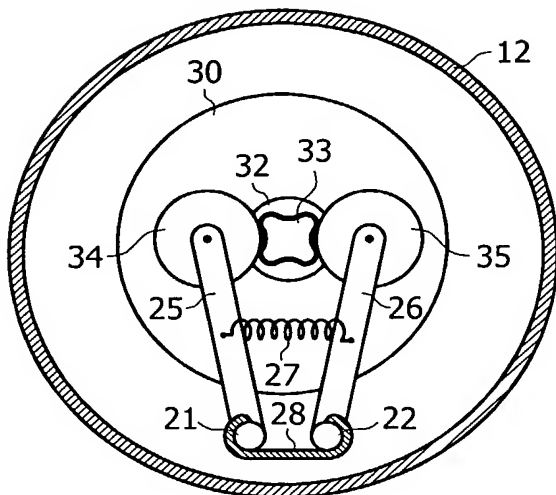
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(54) Title: MEANS FOR DRIVING AT LEAST ONE BRISTLE CARRYING SHAFT OF A TOOTHBRUSH



(57) Abstract: Means for driving bristle carrying shafts (21, 22) of a toothbrush comprise a four-lobed cam (33) which is driven by means of an electric motor (30). At opposite sides, the cam is contacted by rollers (34, 35), which are connected to the bristle carrying shafts through arms (25, 26). The rollers are pressed against the cam by means of a spring (27) interconnecting the arms. During operation, a rotation of the cam leads to opposite reciprocating displacements of the rollers. These displacements lead to opposite reciprocating rotations of the bristle carrying shafts about their longitudinal central axes, through the arms. Consequently, bristles which are arranged at an end of the bristle carrying shafts are rotated in opposite rotational directions, in a reciprocating manner. As the number of lobes of the cam is four, the bristles are rotated at a frequency which is four times the frequency at which the cam is rotated.

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